

REMARKS

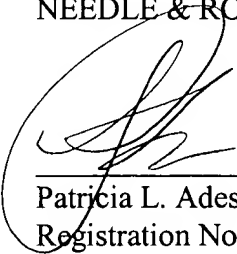
As indicated in Paper No. 16, which is the Examiner's Interview Summary, on September 10, 2003, Applicants' representatives discussed with Examiner Yu and Supervisor Caputa *via* telephone the previous Office Action(s) in the case, specifically the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections in the above-referenced application. Specifically, the disclosures of WO 97/38313 and Racila et al. were discussed. Also discussed was a comparison between the independent claims of the application and the disclosures of the two references. More specifically, the limitations related to (1) enriching for epithelial cells by contacting the sample with an agent that binds with the epithelial cells and (2) detection of the complex can distinguish a non-cancer cell from a cancer cell were asserted by Applicants' representatives to be missing in the cited references. It was further asserted by Applicants' representatives that rejection of the dependent claims thus suffered from the same missing limitations as the independent claims. No agreement was reached, but Examiner Yu and Supervisor Caputa stated they would take the comments under advisement and compare the cited references and claims in light of the comments.

CONCLUSION

No fee is believed to be due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

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